

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 /085 W

-----074899 270353Z /16

R 261635Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6757

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DC FRIULI RECONSTRUCTION SCANDAL REACHES NATIONAL LEVEL

SUMMARY: THE FAVORABLE IMAGE ACHIEVED BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY (DC) FOR ITS SUCCESS IN MEETING THE RECONSTRUCTION NEEDS OF THE FRIULI FOLLOWING THE 1976 EARTHQUAKES HAS BEEN TARNISHED BY A KICK-BACK SCANDAL THAT HAS NOW REACHED THE INNER OFFICE OF FORMER FRIULI SPECIAL COMMISSIONER ZAMBERLETTI. FOLLOWING THE ARREST ON AUGUST 8 OF THE POPULAR DC MAYOR OF MAIANO FOR ALLEGEDLY RECEIVING BRIBES ON A PREFABRICATED HOUSING CONTRACT, ZAMBERLETTI'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT WAS ARRESTED AUGUST 25 ON SIMILAR CORRUPTION CHARGES. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ZAMBERLETTI (INTERIOR MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY) IS INVOLVED IN THE SCANDAL, THE AFFAIR WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EMBARRASSING BOTH TO THE DC AND ZAMBERLETTI PERSONALLY.

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END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 8, THE HIGHLY RESPECTED DC LONGTIME MAYOR OF MAIANO, GIROLAMO BANDERA, WAS ARRANGING CONNECTION WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF CORRUPTION BY THE "PRECASA" CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OF SAVONA IN SUPPLYING PREFABRICATED HOUSING FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS. MAIANO WAS ONE OF THE

FRIULI TOWNS HARDEST HIT BY THE 1976 EARTHQUAKES. THE MAYOR IS CURRENTLY IN JAIL IN SAVONA, WHILE THE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HIM ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION. BANDERA IS REPORTEDLY ACCUSED OF ASKING BRIBES OF APPROXIMATELY 14 MILLION LIRE IN CONNECTION WITH A CONTRACT BETWEEN MAIANO AND "PRECASA."

2. THE SCANDAL, WHICH RECEIVED A BRIEF FLURRY OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL MEDIA PLAY WHEN BANDERA WAS ARRESTED, HAS NOW REACHED THE NATIONAL LEVEL WITH THE ARREST ON AUGUST 25 OF GIUSEPPE BALBO, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO FORMER FRIULI SPECIAL COMMISSIONER ZAMBERLETTI. BALBO IS SIMILARLY ACCUSED BY THE "PRECASA" FIRM OF HAVING RECEIVED A 14 MILLION LIRE CUT IN CONNECTION WITH FRIULI RE-CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS.

3. IN ANNOUNCING BALBO'S ARREST, THE EXAMINING MAGISTRATE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ZAMBERLETTI, UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, IS IN ANY WAY IMPLICATED IN THE AFFAIR. COMMENT: BALBO'S ARREST, HOWEVER, IS UNDOUBTELY EMBARRASSING TO BOTH THE DC AND ZAMBERLETTI. THE DC, AND ITS CENTRAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, HAS SCORED A MAJOR VICTORY IN MEETING THE TEMPORARY HOUSING COMMITMENTS TO THE FRIULI. ZAMBERLETTI'S ENERGY AND EFFICIENCY AS FRIULI SPECIAL COMMISSIONER HAD WON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIM HIGH PRAISE AND POPULARITY. IT HAD ALSO BOOSTED ZAMBERLETTI'S POLITICAL STATURE AS ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING OF THE NEW GENERATION OF DC LEADERS. HOWEVER, BALBO'S ARREST CAN ONLY DISCREDIT HIS IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR'S WELL-EARNED REPUTATION. IN ITS COVERAGE OF THE STORY, L'UNITA INDICATED THAT THE PCI WILL NOT LET THE DC OFF LIGHTLY, BY CALLING FOR "BROADER, DEMOCRATIC CONTROL" OF RECONSTRUCTION EXPENSES. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Subject: DC FRIULI RECONSTRUCTION SCANDAL REACHES NATIONAL LEVEL SUMMARY: THE FAVORABLE IMAGE ACHIEVED BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY (DC) FOR ITS SUCCESS I N MEETING THE
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
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